

were almost exhausted, November blizzards were blowing with zero weather. While matters were in this critical condition, the contending parties were at last induced to avail themselves of the provisions of the Act of 1900, with the result that a friendly settlement was arrived at just in time to prevent complete disaster.

We have referred at some length to the Lethbridge strike, because it was apparently the cause of the legislation which is the subject of the present article.

It was felt that while, in that case, the worst evils of the strike had been averted for the time being, through the agency of the Act of 1900, yet there was need for some more drastic remedy than that measure provided. This is clearly stated in the report presented to the Ottawa Government by Mr. Mackenzie King, the energetic deputy minister of labour whose efforts as a "conciliator" under the Act had been largely instrumental in bringing about the settlement. He there suggests that "the State would be justified in enacting any measure which will make the strike or lockout in a coal mine a thing of the past," and that such an end might be achieved by providing that "all questions in dispute might be referred to a Board empowered to conduct an investigation under oath," and that "pending the investigation and until the Board has issued its finding the parties be restrained, on pain of penalty, from declaring a lockout or strike."

No time was lost by the Government in acting upon this recommendation, and within three months from the settlement of the coal strike, an Act was passed, the full title of which is "An Act to aid in the prevention and settlement of strikes and lockouts in mines and industries connected with public utilities."

This is the Act to which we have thought it desirable to call the attention of our readers, both as being interesting in itself, and also in view of the important question as to its construction, which was raised in the case of *Rex v. McGuire*, recently decided by a Divisional Court.

The defendant in this case was convicted by the police magis-